

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

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Cash Sickness Compensation; A New Type of State Legislation

Most states in the Union now have some form of an unemployment compensation act whereunder certain specified amounts will be deducted from the wages or salaries paid to employees subject to the act and, in the event of unemployment, they are entitled to benefits for a limited number of weeks in amounts proportionate to the contributions they have made to a central fund.

The State of Rhode Island at the last session of the Rhode Island General Assembly adopted an act supplementing its already existing unemployment compensation act. The new act, to be known as "Rhode Island Cash Sickness Compensation Act," is a law relating to cash sickness insurance. It is the first legislation of its kind to be enacted by any state legislature in the country, and should be of interest to the medical profession as a whole.

The declared purpose of the act is "to lighten the burden which now falls on the unemployed worker and his family" by providing for weekly benefits to be paid to workers who are unemployed due to sickness.

The legislation, effective May 10, 1942, establishes what is known as the "Rhode Island Cash Sickness Compensation Act" which is to be administered and benefits paid thereunder by the already existing Rhode Island Unemployment Compensation Board without liability on the part of the state beyond the amounts paid into and earned by the fund. The Treasurer of the State of Rhode Island is the custodian of this fund, which consists of all contributions made pursuant to the provisions of the act. Each employee, defined as meaning any person who is or has been employed by an employer within the meaning of the Unemployment Compensation Act, is required to contribute to the fund an amount equal to one per cent of his wages paid by his employer up to \$3,000.00 in any calendar year. The employer is responsible for withholding such contributions from the wages of his employees at the time such wages are earned or paid, and must transmit all such contributions to the fund in the custody of the State Treasurer.

The fund so created, together with its earnings, is then used to pay weekly benefits to workers unemployed due to sickness, and it is provided in the act that an individual shall be deemed to be sick in any week, in which, because of his physical or mental condition, he

is unable to perform any services for wages. The amount of weekly benefits range from a minimum of \$6.75 per week to a maximum of \$18.00 per week, depending upon the amount which the employee has previously earned and the contributions which he has made to the fund. The gross amount of benefits payable, and the duration thereof, are also limited on the same basis.

The Unemployment Compensation Act would seem to overlap this new type of legislation in that an individual might conceivably be eligible for payments under both the unemployment act and the cash sickness act. To avoid any possibility of double payment of benefits, Section 6, entitled "Benefit Eligibility Condition," provides that an individual shall be disqualified from receiving benefits in any week with respect to which he will receive remuneration in the form of compensation under workmen's compensation law or primary insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act or benefits under the Unemployment Compensation Law of any state or the United States. If, however, the amounts to be received under any of these acts is less than the amounts payable from the cash sickness compensation fund, then the worker is entitled to receive the excess.

The administrative provisions of the act provide for appeal tribunals wherein a referee is appointed by the unemployment compensation board to hear disputes over decisions of the original claims examiners employed by the board. A further appeal to the Unemployment Compensation Board is provided and an individual obtaining an adverse decision before the board may petition the Superior Court of the county in which he is employed for a review of the board's action.

LETTERS†

Concerning Medical Literature for Colleagues in Military Service

(COPY)

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Committee on Postgraduate Activities

October 1, 1942.

Subject: *Medical Literature for Colleagues in Military Service: A Request for Coöperation.*

Addressed:

The Component County Medical Societies of the C.M.A. and the Medical Staffs of California Hospitals.

Dear Doctors:

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, in its September issue (on pages 169 and 170), outlined a plan through which an attempt will be made to supply the many physicians who are now attached to hospital stations of Army, Navy and Air Forces camps located in California with some of the current medical literature. (Note. See also

† Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from the syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

October issue, on pages 227 and 250.)

As stated in the editorial comment, it is hoped that members of the component county medical societies and of hospital staffs throughout the State of California, will give full coöperation in this effort to send medical journals to military colleagues who are now stationed in our State.

The Postgraduate Committee of the California Medical Association has taken over this work and will be glad to render all possible aid in collecting and forwarding medical publications that may be left with county medical society officers, or with hospital staff executives.

If it is not convenient for you to place with, or forward to the University of California, Stanford or Los Angeles County Medical Libraries journals that have been collected, the same may be forwarded *collect*, via "Railway Express Agency," addressed to the C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee, Room 2004, 450 Sutter, San Francisco. The undersigned will then be happy to carry on from that point, as regards distribution to suitable military hospital stations.

In order to bring this matter to the attention of as many of your members as possible, request is also made that you read this communication at a county medical or staff meeting, and if you issue a bulletin, print an item concerning the same therein.

Perusal of the editorial comment on this subject in the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will acquaint you with details of the plan. This letter is written to bring home to you the importance and urgency of *early coöperation*.

The hope is also expressed that an attempt will be made by your respective officers or a special volunteer or other committee appointed for the task, to carry on this work from month to month, so that the supply of medical literature may regularly go forward.

The undersigned is at your further service in the work.

Thanking you for your coöperation,

THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
through its

COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES.

By GEORGE H. KRESS, M.D., *Secretary*.

The addresses of the three libraries follow:

U. C. Medical Library, the Medical Center, Third and Parnassus, San Francisco, California.

Lane Medical Library, Clay and Webster Streets, San Francisco, California. (Stanford.)

Los Angeles County Medical Library Association, 634 South Westlake, Los Angeles, California.

If more convenient, you can send journals, via "Railway Express Agency," *collect*, to:

C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee,
Room 2004, 450 Sutter Street,
San Francisco, California.

Concerning Plan to Supply Medical Journals to Colleagues in Military Service*

(COPY)

HONOLULU COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A., October 20, 1942.

To the Editor.—I have seen the editorial in the September issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, outlining a plan for collecting medical journals for distribution to the physicians in the services. It sounds like a splendid idea and I hope you will get a ready response. I am acquainted with many of the medical officers sta-

tioned in various parts of the island and know how isolated they feel and how heavy time hangs on their hands.

It occurred to me that the Library of the Honolulu County Medical Society might be helpful in distributing in the Hawaiian Islands, some of the journals so collected, particularly on the Island of Oahu where Honolulu is located.

Since the outbreak of the war we have thrown our library open to all the service doctors, giving them the same lending privileges as county society members and we have been gratified in the way they have used it. While the Army has a fine medical library at one of its hospitals, the men from the outlying posts seem to prefer to come to us, perhaps because our library is centrally located in Honolulu and because we have a very restful, not to say luxurious, reading room. The Navy has no library to speak of, and the men from the Naval Hospital come in to do their reference work and reading here. In fact, I might say that the library is more useful to the military doctors than to our own county society members who are so very busy these days.

All this is a preamble to show that we are in touch with the men in the outlying posts as well as at the larger concentrations and that we know what their needs are. The current journal files of our library are in the main complete and we subscribe to about 50 of the leading journals. We cannot, however, allow the very recent journals out on loan, for obvious reasons. It would be helpful, therefore, if we could build up a journal file for the military doctors at some of the larger concentrations.

Depending upon the journals that are turned in, I believe two or three sets of the more popular journals could be placed at strategic locations. If you have material available to go beyond this, I believe each of the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Molokai could profit by some material, as I do not believe any of the county societies on these islands have adequate libraries. If you wish to go still further, journals could be rotated to Johnson Island and the other line islands where only one or two doctors are stationed, but are terribly isolated.

In all of this I would be most eager to be of assistance as an individual as well as librarian for the Honolulu County Medical Society.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) ELIZABETH D. BOLLES, *Librarian*.

Concerning Medical Literature for Military Colleagues

(COPY)

STATION HOSPITAL

LUKE FIELD, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Office of the Chief of the Medical Service

October 12, 1942.

To the Editor.—The desert is filled with planes and sunsets, cadets and coccidioides, but it is short on books. Herbert Mooney and I are thoroughly enjoying our part in helping to "Keep 'em flying" but we miss the Los Angeles County Medical Library.

We have started a library at Luke and I am asking for contributions. We would like files of all the standard journals starting in 1935. I am sure that many members have old journals they do not plan to keep permanently. Perhaps there are texts that are not too old. The other day I needed an anatomy. Someone might be able to part with his old numbers of the Quarterly Cumulative Index. Someone might want to forward current numbers of a journal we do not get after he has read it.

If any of these can be sent to the Los Angeles County Medical Library, I will arrange for transportation to Arizona. One might check by phone with the librarian

* CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, October, 1942, on pages 227 and 250 gives detailed information concerning the plan proposed by the Postgraduate Committee on the California Medical Association.